EDITORIAL: Garbage In, Garbage Out...

A lot of ink has been spilled recently in the local papers concerning MSOE students, WISN, and allegations of computer tampering. The election night incident has become buried under a trash heap of accusations which blame either the students, WISN, and/or the computer system. The following are official statements which we have received:

WISN We are very pleased with the cooperation we've received from many students at MSOE. I hope that any others with information will call the station and talk to us.

We now have a printout of the "session register" which details the operation of the computer on election night. It shows that there were no fewer than 13 unauthorized programs which accessed the election data base. Most of the activity originated from only two terminals; it required over an hour of computer time and took place between 7:30-9:00 p.m. It is our belief that this was a major cause of our problems election night.

We particularly appreciate the help we have received from the MSOE students since our primary objective is to insure that this will not be repeated.

--Wayne Godsey, Vice President
and General Manager, WISN-TV

MSOE The Milwaukee School of Engineering has been viewing, with great concern, the allegations that have been made by WISN in the local media regarding the work of our students during its election night coverage April 3.

MSOE does not condone the type of behavior with which WISN has charged our students who worked that evening. MSOE also feels, however, that WISN has been conducting a "trial by media" without offering conclusive technical evidence that the alleged actions of our students were the actual cause of its computer malfunction. While we can understand WISN's need to discover the true cause of its problem before the fall elections we also hope that, in the event the root cause turns out to be equipment failure, the station will be as quick to exonorate the students as it was to charge them.

In the meantime, we wish WISN every success in its effort to solve the problem.

--Dr. Robert R. Spitzer
President

INGENIUM

Through some fact-finding endeavors, the Ingenium has compiled its own set of assumptions and beliefs.

1) While the student group that went to WISN was not an official representative of MSOE, wrongful activity took place and MSOE has been put in a "bad light."

2) While no immediate affect can be felt, the Ingenium could not blame a company for being shy about recruiting graduating students if some may be difficult to trust. A few bad apples...?

3) The Ingenium feels pretty proud of its middle-of-the-road and nonsensationalizing record, especially after viewing what it considers to be media-trials and sensationalizing by the Milwaukee Journal and Sentinel.

4) Nothing short of a John Doe investigation will really tell the story and expose all of the facts. Because of this, no one will really know what happened and who caused the real problem. Sleep well.